
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

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ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 1997

Domestic primary aluminum production in January was 305,391 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 9,851 tons, the same level as that of the previous month, and slightly higher than the rate for January 1996.

The monthly average U.S. spot or market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 72.25 cents per pound in December to 76.06 cents per pound in January, according to *Platt's Metals Week*. According to *American Metal Market*, the published buying price range for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap increased and widened to a range of 58 to 60 cents per pound in mid-January, and remained at this level through the end of the month. According to *Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report*, the monthly average transaction price for aluminum UBC's was 60.9 cents per pound.

1996 U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption in 1996 decreased 6%

compared with those of 1995. Imports were lower in all three subcategories; however, the largest decrease (20%) occurred in the plates, sheets, bars, etc. category. Canada remained the largest shipper of aluminum to the United States, supplying about two-thirds of the total imports in 1996. Imports of aluminum ingot from Russia increased slightly in 1996; however, total imports from Russia decreased 20% compared with those of the previous year.

Total exports for 1996 decreased 7% compared with those of 1995. Canada, Japan, and Mexico were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for about two-thirds of total U.S. exports in 1996.

Update

The monthly average spot or market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to 76.42 cents per pound in February. The buying price range for aluminum UBC scrap held steady at 58 to 60 cents per pound during the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1996: p/	3,577	1,770	1,550	3,320	1,910	498	2,410	9,300	1,830
1996:									
January	301	143	123	266	158	36	194	762	1,990
February	283	148	117	265	150	37	187	735	2,030
March	303	151	125	276	148	43	191	769	2,010
April	293	151	134	285	188	41	229	807	2,020
May	303	152	136	287	176	42	217	808	1,960
June	293	145	122	267	169	40	210	769	1,980 r/
July	301	145	130	274	139	45	184	760	1,960
August	302	143	138	281	149	45	194	777	1,910
September	292	144	130	275	136	43	179	746	1,890 r/
October	304	156	137	293	170	45	215	812	1,840 r/
November	295	143	130	273	147	41	188	756	1,830
December	305	148	129 r/	277 r/	180	39	219	801	1,830
1997:									
January	305	160	130	290	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from Current Industrial Reports, Series M33D, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
1996: p/	1,490	1,210	1,410	1,250	816 r/	752 r/	107 r/	98	7 r/	7 r/	3,830	3,320
1996:												
January	124	101	114	102	59	55	10	9	(2/)	(2/)	308	266
February	123	100	111	99	62	57	9	8	1	1	305	265
March	123	100	120	107	67	62	8	7	(2/)	(2/)	318	276
April	124	101	132	117	63	58	9	9	1	1	329	285
May	124	101	129	114	69	63	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	331	287
June	124	101	108	96	66	61	9	8	1	1	308	267
July	124	101	110	97	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	274
August	125	102	123	109	66	61	9	8	1	1	324	281
September	125	101	110	98	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	275
October	125	102	125	111	77	71	9	9	1	1	337	293
November	125	101	113	101	68	63	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	315	273
December	124	101	113	100	73 r/	67 r/	9	8	1 r/	1 r/	319 r/	277 r/
1997:												
January	122	99	126	112	75	69	9	9	1	1	333	290

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JANUARY 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	102,000	122,000	82,800	99,200
Integrated aluminum companies	126,000	126,000	112,000	112,000
Independent mill fabricators	62,200	74,600	57,600	69,100
Foundries	7,860	9,440	7,230	8,680
Other consumers	445	534	445	534
Total	299,000	333,000	260,000	290,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN
JANUARY 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	33,300	86,600	86,900	33,000
Can stock clippings	7,900	24,600	23,700	8,840
Other clippings	6,650 r/	15,700	15,700	6,590
Borings and turnings	4,640 r/	18,100	18,200	4,620
Dross and skimmings	3,260 r/	17,100	17,100	3,280
Total new scrap	55,800 r/	162,000	162,000	56,300
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	21,300	54,300	54,500	21,100
Aluminum-copper radiators	928 r/	1,150	1,000	1,080
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	25,200	79,200	75,600	28,800
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	W	W	W	W
Other	804	4,660	4,660	804
Total old scrap	48,200 r/	139,000	136,000	51,700
Sweated pig	2,820 r/	1,150	1,270	2,700
Total all classes	107,000	303,000	299,000	111,000

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES IN JANUARY 1997 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks closing
Die cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,990	3,360	3,900	3,450
380 and variations	12,900	39,600	39,600	12,900
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	13,000	966	966	13,000
No. 319 and variations	3,520 r/	6,300	6,130	3,690
F-132 alloy and variations	1,840 r/	2,970	2,980	1,840
Al-Zn alloys	453 r/	118	118	453
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	96	171	171	96
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	60	77	78	60
Other 3/	2,670	3,720	3,560	2,830
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	5,140	14,600	14,500	5,230
Total all alloys	43,700 r/	72,000	72,100	43,600
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	4,040	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	5,960	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	372	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 4/	XX	61,600	XX	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

4/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 1996 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	Dec.	Jan. - Dec. 2/	Dec.	Jan. - Dec. 2/	Dec.	Jan. - Dec. 2/	Dec.	Jan. - Dec. 2/
Argentina	--	1,450	351	1,030	--	3,060	351	5,540
Australia	131	1,080	40	1,660	120	1,310	291	4,050
Bahrain	--	--	720	8,930	--	--	720	8,930
Belgium	3	931	430	5,560	--	80	434	6,570
Bosnia and Herzegovina	--	--	--	44	--	--	--	44
Brazil	3,020	11,700	20	436	--	415	3,040	12,500
Canada	111,000	1,340,000	23,400	296,000	16,900	223,000	151,000	1,850,000
Croatia	--	--	36	1,200	--	--	36	1,200
Czech Republic	--	--	5	17	--	--	5	17
France	39	1,040	461	8,480	501	3,950	1,000	13,500
Germany	10	1,100	2,330	26,700	441	7,840	2,780	35,700
Ghana	--	--	--	--	--	369	--	369
Hungary	--	--	75	1,560	--	--	75	1,560
Italy	--	25	134	9,550	--	62	134	9,630
Japan	34	353	762	10,300	9	280	805	11,000
Kazakstan	--	18	--	--	--	--	--	18
Korea, Republic of	--	36	14	426	342	342	356	804
Mexico	159	953	1,090	13,300	5,830	73,700	7,080	88,000
Netherlands	17	410	491	4,640	--	743	508	5,790
Norway	--	511	37	3,650	--	--	37	4,160
Russia	61,400	402,000	935	11,200	486	9,750	62,800	423,000
Slovakia	--	448	--	--	--	--	--	448
Slovenia	--	--	324	3,510	--	--	324	3,510
South Africa	--	2,310	313	3,240	45	204	358	5,750
Spain	--	120	1,360	19,100	--	6	1,360	19,200
Sweden	45	45	211	3,230	165	1,180	421	4,450
Switzerland	--	1,900	128	2,490	--	700	128	5,090
Tajikistan	--	20,000	--	--	--	--	--	20,000
Ukraine	--	4,300	--	8	--	--	--	4,300
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	161	1,920	161	1,920
United Kingdom	52	2,130	1,220	18,000	1,110	13,100	2,380	33,200
Venezuela	4,100	116,000	3,060	29,700	1,020	23,600	8,180	169,000
Other	52	3,900	1,490	14,000	4,180	35,700	5,720	53,700
Total	180,000	1,910,000	39,400	498,000	31,300	402,000	250,000	2,810,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes revised data from previous months.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 1996 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	Dec.	Jan. - Dec. 2/	Dec.	Jan. - Dec. 2/	Dec.	Jan. - Dec. 2/	Dec.	Jan. - Dec. 2/
Armenia	--	--	--	23	--	--	--	23
Australia	71	953	288	3,140	--	34	359	4,130
Belgium	--	65	1,570	15,000	--	74	1,570	15,200
Brazil	39	101	2,420	22,500	--	129	2,460	22,800
Canada	12,100	131,000	23,600	352,000	4,910	61,500	40,600	544,000
China	195	759	1,450	24,800	2,940	34,500	4,580	60,100
Czech Republic	--	--	1	5	--	18	1	23
Dominican Republic	--	2	121	2,080	--	39	121	2,120
France	24	418	352	4,070	--	24	376	4,510
Georgia	--	--	7	7	--	--	7	7
Germany	9	343	609	21,900	2	190	619	22,400
Hong Kong	162	3,170	974	13,200	1,740	41,600	2,870	57,900
India	(3/)	13	8	166	76	642	83	821
Israel	6	55	69	1,900	--	39	75	1,990
Italy	1	35	41	3,280	42	80	83	3,390
Japan	5,020	188,000	1,720	30,400	3,950	54,900	10,700	273,000
Korea, Republic of	1,560	20,500	2,700	22,000	2,670	37,800	6,930	80,200
Latvia	--	--	--	33	--	--	--	33
Malaysia	--	599	182	2,660	20	403	202	3,670
Mexico	5,380	48,000	8,610	105,000	1,390	17,100	15,400	170,000
Netherlands	--	410	152	1,710	--	375	152	2,500
Russia	--	15	--	1	--	--	--	16
Saudi Arabia	--	32	829	18,900	--	--	829	18,900
Singapore	34	205	263	3,170	9	14	306	3,390
Slovakia	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	4
Slovenia	--	--	--	36	--	--	--	36
Spain	--	31	243	2,190	--	1,200	243	3,420
Sweden	4	317	17	327	--	23	21	666
Taiwan	414	8,650	338	12,800	2,470	48,200	3,220	69,600
Thailand	313	6,300	290	4,680	82	868	685	11,800
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Kingdom	2	706	739	18,300	--	12,700	741	31,700
Venezuela	--	46	827	11,600	22	418	848	12,100
Other	848	6,620	5,790	61,600	946	7,560	7,580	75,700
Total	26,200	417,000	54,200	760,000	21,300	320,000	102,000	1,500,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes revised data from previous months.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.